

## Message Text

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ACTION CU-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 ISO-00 PM-05 PA-02 PRS-01 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /034 W

-----125697 221458Z /53

P R 220948Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU

SECSTATE WASHDC 6417

UNCLAS BANGKOK 35719

USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS -- DECEMBER 22 - 29, 1977

FOR IEA AND ICS/D, CINCPAC FOR USIA ADVISOR, STATE FOR CU/EA

### 1. ATMOSPHERICS:

RELATIONS BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE INDOCHINA STATES CONTINUE TO PROCCUPY THAI MEDIA. GENERAL EUPHORIA WAS DISPELLED SOMEWHAT BY VIOLENCE ALONG THE THAI-CAMBODIA BORDER WHICH WAS CLIMAXED DECEMBER 21 WHEN A THAI OV-10 BRONCO TWIN-ENGINE PLANE WAS SHOT DOEN IN CAMBODIA WHILE, NEWSPAPERS SAID, ON A STRAFING ATTACK ALONG THE BORDER.

PRIOR TO THE LATEST BORDER CLASHES, PRIME MINISTER KRIANGSAK CHAMANAN HAD ASSERTED THAT DIPLOMACY WOULD BE USED TO SOLVE PROBLEMS WITH PHNOM PENH AND THERE WERE SIGNS OF BETTER THAI-CAMBODIAN RELATIONS. HOWEVER, GENERAL YOS DHEPHASDIN, THAI ARMY DEPUTY COMMANDER, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THAILAND SHOULD RETALIATE IN KIND FOR CAMBODIAN ATTACKS ON THAI TERRITORY.

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DISCUSSING THE BORDER SITUATION, THE DAILY SIAM RATH, OWNED BY FORMER PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOJ, EDITORIALY SUGGESTED THAT BANGKOK AND PHNOM PENH MEET TO NEGOTIATE THEIR DIFFERENCES. WHILE SUCH TALKS ARE IN PROGRESS, "THAI AND CAMBODIAN VILLAGERS SHOULD BE MOVED FROM THE DISPUTED BORDER AREA AND, TEMPORARILY, NOBODY SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO ENTER IT," THE PAPER SAID IN ITS DECEMBER 19 EDITORIAL.

2. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:

POST PRESENTED VOLUNTEER "SPEAKER" BERNARD BRAGG OF NATIONAL THEATRE OF DEAF IN AN EXTREMELY WELL-RECEIVED PROGRAM AT SCHOOL FOR DEAF BEFORE AUDIENCE OF 200 TEACHERS, PARENTS AND STUDENTS. BRAGG USED SIGN LANGUAGE AND THEATER MIME TECHNIQUES (ACCOMPANIED BY NARRATION IN THAI OF HIS LECTURE TEXT) TO DEMONSTRATE HIS CONCEPT OF "TOTAL COMMUNICATION" FOR DEAF. DURING HIS VISIT HERE, HE SPENT SEVERAL HOURS WITH MEMBERS OF FACULTY OF LOCAL SCHOOLS FOR DEAF DISCUSSING TEACHING TECHNIQUES AND PHILOSOPHY OF DEVELOPMENT OF SIGN LANGUAGE. EDUCATORS HERE ARE CURRENTLY EMBROILED IN CONTROVERSY OVER WHETHER TO ADOPT AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE OR EXPAND UPON EXISTING THAI SIGN LANGUAGE FOR TEACHING PURPOSES AND WERE GRATEFUL FOR THE CHANCE TO GET BRAGG'S PERSPECTIVES ON SUBJECT.  
MCGINLEY

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
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